

VZCZCXRO1240  
PP RUEHFK  
DE RUEHKO #2514 2560602  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 120602Z SEP 08  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7204  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY  
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 9835  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 3576  
RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5314  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2528  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 1312  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1622  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 002514

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OIIP KMDR KPAO JA

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - NORTH KOREA

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Friday morning included the finding on Thursday that some of the pesticide-tainted rice from China that was intended for industrial use has been served at 119 hospitals and nursing homes in Japan.

¶2. "Preparations Needed for All Possible Contingencies" The conservative Sankei editorialized (9/12): "There have been reports that North Korean leader Kim Jong Il is seriously ill. We must be vigilant against a possible power vacuum in the country.... The situation is unpredictable, given the possibility of a power struggle over leadership.... North Korea possesses nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons in addition to its Rodong and Taepodong missiles, which can reach the U.S. and Japan. North Korea is a very dangerous nation in terms of peace and security in East Asia, especially for Japan.... It is urgent for the GOJ to prepare for all possible contingencies.... Specifically, Japan needs to strengthen coordination with its ally, the U.S., and the SDF and U.S. military need to share information on North Korea."

ZUMWALT